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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary
 SUBJECT Military
 HOW PUBLISHED Weekly, monthly periodicals

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 6 Nov 1949

WHERE PUBLISHED Western Europe

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE PUBLISHED Jun, Aug 1949

LANGUAGE Hungarian

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Periodicals as indicated.

ARMED COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS OF HUNGARY

45,000 IN ARMY -- Kozponti Tiszkeztato [Organ of the MHBK (Hungarian Fighting Comrades Association)], No 3, Jun 49

The present strength of the bolshevized Hungarian army is approximately 40,000 to 45,000 men. The Communists are doing everything within their power to transform the army into a reliable and obedient force.

Police

The strength of the police force has passed the 70,000 mark. Police strength was increased by 5,000 men several weeks ago and 23,000 young men were registered for future increases in the police force. There is a secret arms reserve amounting to approximately 30 percent of the arms in use, for arming a supplementary police force in case of emergency.

Warriors of Liberty Association

The Warriors of Liberty Association was organized out of partisans of World War II and prisoners of war returned from the Soviet Union. This organization is primarily engaged in training a secret reserve for the Communist Party.

The uniform consists of a gray converted civilian outfit with a stiff gray cap

When in formation at a distance, the association looks like a unit dressed for action in the tropics.

Organization members are seldom armed in public, although they are trained in the use of arms.

The organization is headed by Moscow-educated Lt Col Sandor Nogradi.

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"R" Guard

The "R" Guard is the security unit of the Communist Party. Its duty is to keep order at party meetings and to cause disturbances at public functions of other political parties. The guard's members wear the party uniform and a cap similar to the old Hungarian Army cap.

Members are trained in handling weapons. They receive other military training at three camps: Kistarcsa, Dorog, and Jankapuszta. The "R" Guard carries arms in public. Members are permitted to keep arms at home so as to assemble fully armed on the shortest notice. Strength of the organization is estimated at 4,200 men in Budapest and 7,000 to 8,000 men in outlying areas.

It is significant that "R" Guards were also organized within the army; thus, there is a 90-man "R" Guard unit in the first Budapest military district. Only thoroughly proven fighting Communists can become members of the guard. Reports indicate that guard members have been ordered to the army, police and even to the Kossuth and Petofi academies to take over key positions.

The "R" Guard is commanded by Minister Ferenc Erdei.

SZIT

The SZIT (Socialist Young Workers and Apprentices) is a military-type organization. Membership is limited to factory workers. Members wear dark-blue uniforms and Russian-type visor caps.

The training program of the organization consists of the following:

1. Since 20 July 1948, youths born in 1928 have been started on 6-month training programs. The first 5 weeks of training consists of standard military-recruit training and is followed by specialized training. Training camps are located at Tihany, the former KISOK camp, and at the Eszterhazy castle in Tatán. Budapest trains 600 men at a time.
2. Communist Party youth-movement leaders are given 6 weeks of recruit training in Budapest. Outstanding students are given 12 weeks of further training, after which they are given the rank of sergeant or master sergeant.
3. SZIT members are also offered a 6-month technical training course. The first such course was completed in September 1948 with 600 men participating. The third course is now in progress. The object is to train good radio technicians and telephone, automobile, and aircraft mechanics for the army. The age limit for this course are 16 - 20 years. Training is under the direction of the Ministry of Defense, with Fal Ilku in charge.

Younger workers and those SZIT members who do not participate in the above courses must attend regular Sunday excursions and listen to lectures.

Nationalized Plant Guard

The Nationalized Plant Guard is a purely Communist organization which has not yet been put into uniform. Members carry arms only when on duty. The organization is under the supervision and control of the completely Communist-dominated police.

Nationalized Fire Brigades and Plant Fire Brigades

Fire brigades have been nationalized and uniformed in Hungary. They have also been placed under the direction of the Ministry of the Interior.

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A nation-wide organization has been set up under the leadership of Antal Bodai, who has been identified with the fight against the kulaks.

PARATROOP TRAINING -- Nyugati Hirnok, No 34, 8 Aug 49

The Szolnok airport has been a training center for 200 paratroop trainees. The training is under the direction of a veteran paratroop officer and Soviet supervisors.

The Papa airfield has now also been taken over to train a paratroop unit. Russian air-force units have been moved to the Sopke and Vat airfields near Szombathely. Russian air units are also stationed at Győr, at the two airfields in Szekesfehervar, and at Taszar.

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